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TAKE A MINI-VACATION AT THE MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Antique cars, scavenger hunts for kids, tours of the State Capitol, food vendors on the lawn, free admission to the Montana Historical Society, and more fun activities make Saturday, July 17, a great day for a mini-vacation in Helena.

“We know that things are a little tight for many families this summer,” Society Education and Outreach Manager Kirby Lambert said. “So we decided to provide the old cars, answer the questions about transportation, and offer free fun activities here at the Society, so families can enjoy a relaxing day with us.”

“Life in the Past (cq past and remove) Lane: A celebration of Antique Automobiles and Other Modes of Transportation in the Treasure State” will be from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Capitol Carriage Car Club along with other non-affiliated antique car owners will have their cars on display in front of the Society just across from the Capitol Building and stand ready to talk about them.

Montana Department of Transportation Historian Jon Axline will present “Howdy Stranger! Montana’s Tourism Programs during the Great Depression” at 10:30 in the Society auditorium.

Along with free admission all day to Montana’s Museum, special transportation-themed tours will be offered, motor vehicle related periodicals will be on display in the Society Library, and car-related items will be available in the Museum Store.

Free tours of the State Capitol are at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. The Last Chance Tour Train departs for historic tours of Helena at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.

“With food for sale on the grounds, we think we have a great day of fun and entertainment lined up for families,” Lambert said.

That evening the 2010 Symphony Under the Stars will be presented at Carroll College.